

Beauty & the Beach



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Plunge in border crossings could blunt GOP attack on Biden



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President Joe Biden walks with U.S. Border Patrol agents along a stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border in El Paso Texas, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023.

Associated Press

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Geoffrey Wever
stresses the
importance of
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Linda Wolff, a trajectory dedicated to folkloric music



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Plunge in border crossings could blunt GOP attack on Biden

From Front

By **ELLIOT SPAGAT**
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A sharp drop in illegal border crossings since December could blunt a Republican point of attack against President Joe Biden as the Democratic leader moves to reshape a broken asylum system that has dogged him and his predecessors.

A new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows some support for changing the number of immigrants and asylum-seekers allowed into the country. About 4 in 10 U.S. adults say the level of immigration and asylum-seekers should be lowered, while about 2 in 10 say they should be higher, according to the poll. About a third want the numbers to remain the same.

The decrease in border crossings followed Biden's announcement in early January that Mexico would take back Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans under a pandemic-era rule that denies migrants the right to seek asylum as part of an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. At the same time, the U.S. agreed to admit up to 30,000 a month of those four nationalities on humanitarian parole if they apply online, enter at an airport and find a financial sponsor.

The administration has also proposed generally denying asylum to anyone who travels through another country on their way to the U.S. without seeking protection there — effectively all non-Mexicans who appear at the U.S. southern border. The new rules put forth by Biden could help the president fight back against critics who complain he hasn't done enough to address border security issues.

But the moves have also fueled anger among some of his Democratic allies who are concerned that he is furthering a Trump-era policy they view as anti-immigrant and hurting vulnerable migrants who are try-



Migrants watch others stand next to the border wall in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Dec. 21, 2022, on the other side of the border from El Paso, Texas.

Associated Press

ing to escape dangerous conditions in their native countries.

And the new changes — and subsequent drop in illegal border crossings — are unlikely to stop the barrage of attacks from conservatives who see border security as a powerful political weapon.

Biden has been on the defensive as Republicans and right-wing media outlets have hammered him over the soaring increase in migrant encounters at the border.

The new House GOP leadership has held hearings on what they call the "Biden border crisis" and talked of impeaching Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

Agents detained migrants more than 2.5 million times at the southern border in 2022, including more than 250,000 in December, the highest on record. According to a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, Border Patrol agents stopped migrants about 130,000 times in February, similar to January.

Among Republicans, the poll shows about two-thirds say there should be fewer immigrants and asylum-seekers, while only about 1 in 10 say there should be

more.

Democrats are split: About a quarter say the number of immigrants should increase, a quarter say it should decrease, and about 4 in 10 say it should remain the same. They are slightly more supportive of asylum-seekers specifically, with 37% supporting an increase, 26% backing a decrease, and 36% saying the number should remain the same.

Under U.S. law, numbers are not capped on asylum, which was largely a policy afterthought until about a decade ago. Since 2017, the U.S. has been the world's most popular destination for asylum-seekers, according to U.N. figures. Even those who lose in court can stay for years while their cases wind through a backlogged system.

Omar Reffell, a 38-year-old independent voter in Houston, said that he supports immigration but that news coverage of "caravans of people trying to cross the border" sends the wrong message to migrants.

"People think that they just show up at the border, come across, there is not going to be any repercussions," Reffell said.

"I'm not against immigration. I think immigration is good for the country, but it has to happen in a very or-

derly manner or it puts a lot of stress, especially on the border states being able to provide resources."

More than 100,000 migrants each month were being released in U.S. border cities late last year with notices to appear in immigration court or report to immigration authorities.

Dan Restrepo, a top White House adviser on Latin America during Barack Obama's presidency, believes the American public will accept high levels of immigration — if a systematic process can be followed.

The challenge in managing migration "is the sense of chaos and disorder that can be created by images of overwhelmed processing facilities and the like at the physical border," he said. "It's less the numbers and more the imagery" that bothers voters.

Republicans cast Biden's expansion of humanitarian parole for four nationalities as a political ploy to divert attention from the border and are not likely to let up on their criticism of the president on immigration. The Federation of American Immigration Reform, an anti-immigration group, called January's plunge in border numbers "a shell game" to boost Biden's reelection prospects.

Fox News Channel has hit hard on the story over the last year.

Reporter Bill Melugin said in a "Battle for the Border" special on Nov. 3 that he had spent more than 200 days on the Texas border. "We've been shooting the video all day long," Melugin said in a typical report from the Texas town of Eagle Pass. "We keep getting these massive groups of 150 to 200 crossing every single day."

The network's night-vision drone cameras have showed hundreds of migrants walking across the border, each one appearing as a luminous white stick slowly advancing across a dark screen.

The poll found 39% of U.S. adults approve of how Biden is handling immigration, and 38% approve of him on border security — slightly below his overall approval ratings. About two-thirds of Democrats but only about 1 in 10 Republicans say they approve of his handling of either issue. The poll was taken Feb. 16-20, just before the administration proposed on Feb. 21 that asylum should generally be denied to migrants who pass through another country without applying for protection there if it is deemed safe.

The administration is angling to have the new rule take effect before the pandemic-related limits on asylum are expected to end May 11, though legal challenges appear imminent.

Becky Steelsmith, a 70-year-old independent voter from Zachary, Louisiana, is reluctant to heap blame on Biden because solutions also eluded his predecessors, but she notes that the optics are not great.

"The only reason why I disagree with Biden's handling of it is that I think he's a little too soft," said Steelsmith, a retired teacher.

"I'm not saying it's his fault that it's happening. I'm saying that as president, he needs to sit down and really focus and come up with some kind of a solution, or the beginning of a solution." □

U.S. sues to block JetBlue from buying Spirit Airlines

By DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

The Biden administration sued to block JetBlue Airways' \$3.8 billion purchase of Spirit Airlines, saying Tuesday that the deal would reduce competition and drive up air fares for consumers.

The Justice Department said the tie-up would especially hurt cost-conscious travelers who depend on Spirit to find cheaper options to JetBlue and other airlines.

Attorney General Merrick Garland held a news conference to announce the antitrust lawsuit — a sign of the importance that the administration places on stopping further consolidation in the airline industry.

"If allowed to proceed, this merger will limit choices and drive up ticket prices for passengers across the country" and "eliminate Spirit's unique and disruptive role in the industry," he said.

The Justice Department lawsuit, filed in federal district court in Boston, stressed that the deal would mean the end of the nation's biggest "ultra-low-cost carrier." Those are airlines that generally provide the cheapest fares but also tend to charge more fees. The Justice Department lawyers said Spirit's demise would eliminate about half of all ultra-low-cost seats in the market. It cited a Spirit estimate that average fares fall 17% when it enters a route, and a JetBlue calculation that fares rise 30% when Spirit leaves a route. The airlines vowed to continue fighting to salvage their agreement.

JetBlue CEO Robin Hayes said the merger would boost competition by making his New York-based airline bigger and better able to go up against American, United, Delta and Southwest. He blamed the DOJ for airline consolidation.

"We believe the DOJ has got it wrong on the law here and misses the point that this merger will create a national low-fare, high-quality competitor to the Big Four carriers which

— thanks to their own DOJ-approved mergers — control about 80% of the U.S. market," Hayes said.

JetBlue and Florida-based Spirit have anticipated a legal challenge for weeks. The Justice Department had previously requested additional documents and depositions about JetBlue's proposal to buy Spirit, the nation's biggest budget airline. Negotiations over a possible settlement failed.

As signals grew stronger that the government would challenge the tie-up, JetBlue launched a pre-emptive campaign to make its argument that the deal would help consumers by creating a stronger competitor to the four larger carriers.

Hayes said he was disappointed but not surprised at the lawsuit.

"We said when we got the offer approved by the Spirit shareholders last year that we didn't think we would close until the first half of 2024, expecting a trial," he said on "CBS Mornings."

The lawsuit is the latest by the Biden administration to seek to block mergers in industries including health care, sugar refining, video gaming and publishing. It has already lost the health care and sugar battles.

"They don't seem to be afraid of losing cases. They're hoping that if they win some, that will set a precedent and help them deter other mergers that they view as anti-competitive," said Florian Ederer, an antitrust expert at Yale University. He thinks the government has a strong case against the JetBlue deal.

The Justice Department was under pressure from Democratic lawmakers and consumer advocates who complained about a wave of earlier mergers. In 2021, the administration took a more aggressive approach, suing to kill a limited partnership between JetBlue and American Airlines in the Northeast. A federal judge in Boston is expected to issue a ruling soon, after a non-jury trial last fall.

JetBlue and Spirit would control a little over 9% of the domestic air-travel market, far smaller than American, Delta, United and Southwest. JetBlue executives repeatedly said their deal was not like Pepsi buying Coca-Cola — a line that Hayes repeated Tuesday.

However, their concentration is much higher on certain routes in the East. The Justice Department lawsuit said the two account for nearly 50% of the traffic between Boston and Miami and Fort Lauderdale, and nearly 90% between Boston and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The Justice Department sued to block the last megadeal, American's 2013 merger with US Airways, then reached a set-



A JetBlue Airways Airbus A320, left, passes a Spirit Airlines Airbus A320 as it taxis on the runway, July 7, 2022, at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Associated Press

tlement that required the carriers to give up some gates and takeoff and landing slots at several major airports. Before that, the

government allowed Delta to buy Northwest, United to merge with Continental, and it later let Southwest buy AirTran. □

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Tribes bury Southern California's famed mountain lion, P-22

By STEFANIE DAZIO

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tribal leaders, scientists and conservation advocates buried Southern California's most famous mountain lion Saturday in the mountains where the big cat once roamed.

After making his home in the urban Griffith Park — home of the Hollywood Sign — for the past decade, P-22 became a symbol for California's endangered mountain lions and their decreasing genetic diversity. The mountain lion's name comes from being the 22nd puma in a National Park Service study. The death of the cougar late last year set off a debate between the tribes in the Los Angeles area and wildlife officials over whether scientists could keep samples of the mountain lion's remains for future testing and research.

Some representatives of the Chumash, Tataviam and Gabrielino (Tongva) peoples argued that samples taken during the necropsy should be buried with the rest of his body in the ancestral lands where he spent his life. Some tribal elders said keeping the specimens for scientific testing would be disrespectful to their traditions. Mountain lions are regarded as



This Nov. 2014, file photo provided by the U.S. National Park Service shows a mountain lion known as P-22, photographed in the Griffith Park area near downtown Los Angeles.

relatives and considered teachers in LA's tribal communities. Tribal representatives, wildlife officials and others discussed a potential compromise in recent weeks, but a consensus was not reached before P-22 was buried in an unspecified location in the Santa Monica Mountains on Saturday.

"While we have done everything we could to keep the carcass intact, the Tribes and agencies involved are still working toward a conclusion about some of the samples," the state Department of Fish and Wildlife said in a statement Monday. "What is important to understand is that the Tribes and agencies involved all agreed on moving forward with the burial and it was a moving ceremony. We have come to a better place of understanding and we look forward to continued growth from this place." It was not clear whether the unspecified samples might also be buried with

the animal in the future or if the tribes have agreed to let scientists keep some specimens for additional testing. Saturday's traditional tribal burial included songs, prayers and sage smoke cleansings, according to Alan Salazar, a tribal member of the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and a descendant of the Chumash tribe. The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, where the cougar's remains had been kept in a freezer before the burial,

called the burial a "historically significant ceremony." "The death of P-22 has affected all of us and he will forever be a revered icon and ambassador for wildlife conservation," the museum said in a statement Monday. Salazar, who attended the ceremony, said he believes P-22's legacy will help wildlife officials and scientists realize the importance of being respectful to animals going forward. Beth Pratt, the California executive director for the National Wildlife Federation who also attended the ceremony, wrote on Facebook that the burial "helped me achieve some measure of peace" as she grieves the animal's death. "I can also imagine P-22 at peace now, with such a powerful and caring send-off to the next place," she wrote. "As we laid him to rest, a red-tailed hawk flew overhead and called loudly, perhaps there to help him on his journey."

Los Angeles and Mumbai are the world's only major cities where large cats have been a regular presence for years — mountain lions in one, leopards in the other — though pumas began roaming the streets of Santiago, Chile, during pandemic lockdowns. □



Demonstrators gather at the federal courthouse in Austin, Texas, following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, June 24, 2022.

Associated Press

By ACACIA CORONADO

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Five women who said they were denied abortions even when pregnancy endangered their lives are suing

Texas over its abortion ban, the latest legal fight against state restrictions since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Roe v. Wade. The lawsuit filed Monday in state court said the Tex-

as law, one of the strictest in the country, is creating confusion among doctors, who are turning away some pregnant women experiencing health complications because they fear repercussions.

Women sue Texas over abortion ban, say it risked their lives

Similar legal challenges to abortion restrictions have arisen in states across the country since the Supreme Court overturned the landmark 1973 decision establishing a constitutional right to abortion. As clinics have shuttered in Republican-dominant states with strict abortion bans, some patients have had to cross state lines. According to the Texas

suit brought by the women and two doctors, one of the women was forced to wait until she was septic before being provided an abortion and four others were forced to travel out of state to receive medical care after their health was endangered by their pregnancies. The group wants clarification of the law, which they say is written vaguely and has made medical professionals wary of facing liability if the state does not consider the situation a medical emergency. In an email Tuesday, a spokesman for Texas Attorney General Ken Pax-

ton said he is "committed to doing everything in his power to protect mothers, families, and unborn children, and he will continue to defend and enforce the laws duly enacted by the Texas Legislature." According to the lawsuit, one of the doctors, Damla Karsan, "has seen that physicians in Texas are even afraid to speak out publicly about this issue for fear of retaliation" and has witnessed how "widespread fear and confusion regarding the scope of Texas's abortion bans has chilled the provision of necessary obstetric care, including abortion care." □

2 Americans dead, 2 rescued after violent Mexico kidnapping

By **ALFREDO PEÑA**

Associated Press

CIUDAD VICTORIA, Mexico

(AP) — A road trip to Mexico for cosmetic surgery ended with two Americans dead — and two others found alive in a rural area near the Gulf coast — after a violent shootout and abduction that was captured on video, officials said Tuesday.

The surviving Americans were back on U.S. soil after being sped to the border near Brownsville, the southernmost tip of Texas, in a convoy of ambulances and SUVs escorted by Mexican military Humvees and National Guard trucks with mounted .50-caliber machine guns.

A relative of one of the victims said Monday that the four had traveled together from the Carolinas so one of them could get a tummy tuck from a doctor in the Mexican border city of Matamoros, where Friday's kidnapping took place.

Irving Barrios, Tamaulipas state's top prosecutor, confirmed the two Americans were turned over to U.S. authorities at the international bridge to Brownsville, Texas. They were then taken to Valley Regional Medical Center with an FBI escort, according to the Brownsville Herald. A spokesperson for the hospital referred all inquiries to the FBI.



A member of the Mexican security forces stands next to a white minivan with North Carolina plates and several bullet holes, at the crime scene where gunmen kidnapped four U.S. citizens who crossed into Mexico from Texas, Friday, March 3, 2023.

Associated Press

The U.S. citizens were found in a rural area east of Matamoros called Ejido Longoreño on the way to the Gulf coast known as "Bagdad Beach," according to a Mexican state law enforcement official. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to publicly discuss the case. Word of their location came to authorities before dawn Tuesday. It was not immediately clear if the two bodies were also being returned to the U.S. In announcing the Americans

had been found, Tamaulipas Gov. Américo Villarreal did not provide details on the extent of the wounded person's injuries. Shortly after entering Mexico, the four were caught amid fighting between rival cartel groups in the city. Video and photographs taken during and immediately after the abduction show the Americans' white minivan sitting beside another vehicle, with at least one bullet hole in the driver's side window. A witness said the two vehicles had

collided. Almost immediately, several men in tactical vests and toting assault rifles arrived in another vehicle to surround the scene. The gunmen walked one of the Americans into the bed of a white pickup, then dragged and loaded the three others. Terrified drivers sat silently in their cars, hoping not to draw their attention. Two of the victims appeared to be motionless. Officials said a Mexican woman also died in Friday's crossfire. The shootings illustrate the

terror that has prevailed for years in Matamoros, a city dominated by factions of the powerful Gulf drug cartel who often fight among themselves.

Amid the violence, thousands of Mexicans have disappeared in Tamaulipas state alone.

Villarreal confirmed the deaths by phone during a morning news conference by Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, saying details about the four abducted Americans had been confirmed by prosecutors.

López Obrador said one person was in custody.

"Those responsible will be found and they are going to be punished," the president said. He referenced arrests made in the 2019 killings of nine U.S.-Mexican dual citizens in Sonora near the U.S. border.

He complained about the U.S. media's coverage of the missing Americans, accusing them of sensationalism. "It's not like that when they kill Mexicans in the United States, they go quiet like mummies."

"It's very unfortunate, they (the U.S. government) has the right to protest like they have," López Obrador said. "We really regret that this happens in our country."

U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland expressed his sympathy for the families of the victims. □

Bangladesh building explosion kills at least 17; scores hurt

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)

— An explosion in a seven-story commercial building in Bangladesh's capital on Tuesday killed at least 17 people and injured dozens, officials said.

The explosion occurred in Gulistan area, a busy commercial area of Dhaka, fire department official Rashed bin Khaled said by phone. The building contained several stores selling plumbing products and household items, and its first two floors were badly damaged, according to fire officials. It was not immediately

clear what caused the explosion, but some reports said the explosion happened from accumulated gas.

Bacchu Mia, a police official at the state-run Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said more than 50 people were taken there for treatment, and at least 14 of them were dead. The others later died from their injuries, he said. Local media reported at least 100 people were injured in the blast.

The United News of Bangladesh agency reported that

people on the upper floors were trapped for hours after the explosion.

Brig. Gen. Main Uddin, director general of the Fire Service and Civil Defense, said they could not enter the ground floor and they had no clear data if anybody was trapped.

He said that it was not possible to get to the ground floor as the building became very risky because the columns that hold up the building had collapsed. He said they would take help from the military after the search and rescue op-



Fire officials and locals carry an injured person to hospital after an explosion, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Associated Press

eration begin on Wednesday morning.

Bangladesh has a history of fires and industrial disasters, including factories

catching fire with workers trapped inside.

Monitoring groups have blamed corruption and lax enforcement. □

Kim's sister warns N. Korea ready to act against U.S., South

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

The influential sister of North Korea's leader warned Tuesday that her country is ready to take "quick, overwhelming action" against the United States and South Korea, a day after the U.S. flew a nuclear-capable B-52 bomber in a demonstration of strength against the North.

The U.S.-South Korean training on Monday involving the B-52 bomber over the Korean Peninsula was the latest in a series of drills between the allies in recent months. Their militaries are also preparing to revive their largest field exercises later this month.

Kim Yo Jong didn't describe any planned actions in her statement, but North Korea has often test-launched missiles in response to U.S.-South Korean military drills because it views them as an invasion rehearsal.

"We keep our eye on the restless military moves by the U.S. forces and the South Korean puppet military and are always on standby to take appropriate, quick and overwhelming action at any time according to our judgment," Kim Yo Jong said in the statement carried by state media. "The demonstrative military moves and all sorts



This photo provided by the North Korean government, Kim Yo Jong, sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, delivers a speech during a national meeting against the coronavirus, in Pyongyang, North Korea, Aug. 10, 2022.

of rhetoric by the U.S. and South Korea, which go so extremely frantic as not to be overlooked, undoubtedly provide (North Korea) with conditions for being forced to do something to cope with them," she said. Hours after Kim's statement, the General Staff of North Korea's Korean People's Army said it put its front-line artillery units on alert and heightened surveillance activities after it detected a live-fire artillery drill by "the enemy" in the South Korean border town of Paju on Tuesday morning.

The General Staff said about 30 rounds were fired during the South Korean exercise, which it described as a "very grave military provocation" that aggravated tensions, and urged its rival to immediately stop such activities near the border.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff described the North Korean claim as absurd and denied that the South's military had fired any artillery at the shooting range the North was referring to.

The South Korean Defense

Ministry said after Monday's training that the B-52's deployment demonstrated the allies' capability to deter North Korean aggression. The U.S. deployed B-1B bombers to the peninsula a few times earlier this year. Last month, the U.S. and South Korea also held a simulation in Washington aimed at sharpening their response to North Korean nuclear threats.

Last Friday, the South Korean and U.S. militaries announced they would conduct a computer-simulated command post train-

ing from March 13-23 and restore their largest spring-time field exercises that were last held in 2018.

The allies had canceled or scaled back some of their regular drills since 2018 to support now-dormant diplomacy with North Korea and guard against the COVID-19 pandemic. But they have been restoring their exercises after North Korea last year conducted a record number of missile tests and openly threatened to use its nuclear weapons in potential conflicts with its rivals.

In a separate statement Tuesday, North Korea's Foreign Ministry called the fly-over of the U.S. B-52 bomber a reckless provocation that pushed the situation on the peninsula "deeper into the bottomless quagmire." The statement said "there is no guarantee that there will be no violent physical conflict" if U.S.-South Korean military provocations continue.

North Korea often uses fiery rhetoric in times of heightened animosity with the United States and South Korea. Possible steps North Korea could take include a nuclear test or the launch of a new type of inter-continental ballistic missile capable of targeting the mainland U.S., observers say. □



A Somali woman breastfeeds her child at a camp for displaced people on the outskirts of Dollow, Somalia on Sept. 20, 2022.

Associated Press

By **EVELYNE MUSAMBI**

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) —

Acute malnutrition among pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers has

increased by 25% in the past two years in 12 countries hard hit by rising food prices fueled by the fighting in Ukraine, according to a new United Nations

Malnutrition rises in pregnant women in 12 at-risk countries

report.

Surveys in 10 countries in Africa and two in the Middle East that are worst affected by the food crisis were used in a UNICEF report, released Tuesday, a day before International Women's Day.

Poor nutrition in pregnant and breastfeeding women can lead to weak immunity and complications during pregnancy and birth. Some countries in sub-Saharan Africa have in previous studies recorded high infant mortality rates due to various complications.

Globally, 51 million children under two years old are

too short for their age due to malnutrition, a condition called stunting, and half of these become stunted during pregnancy or within their first six months of life, the report states.

"Without urgent action from the international community, the consequences could last for generations to come," UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said.

The affected girls and women have increased from 5.5 million in 2020 to 6.9 million in 2022 in Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, Su-

dan, Yemen and Afghanistan, according to the report.

UNICEF recommends increased nutrition assistance and supplying fortifications to highly consumed basic foods such as flour, cooking oil and salt to reduce micronutrient deficiencies. Ensuring that pregnant and breastfeeding mothers have access to nutrition services and supplements has also been recommended in the report.

Some of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa have high rates of teenage pregnancies and low attendance at prenatal clinics. □

Minister Geoffrey Wever stresses the importance of participating in the Economic Census 2023

(Oranjestad)—In the period of April 14th until the end of June of this year, there will be a count of all businesses and foundations on Aruba. Availability and access to current information on the number of companies that perform economic activities is necessary when making or adapting the economic management on Aruba.

Recently, the Cental Office of Statistics announced that the Economic Census 2023 will take place from April 14th up until the end

of June of 2023.

Institutions will be asked to supply data on their economic activities, their products and services, the number of employees working, the total sum of their salaries for these employees and the total sum of their revenue for the year 2020, 2021 and 2022, among other things. Furthermore, institutions must explain their contribution to the sector of Tourism. Institutions in the sector of Agriculture, Fishing and Cattle will have to provide information on

their activities, including the number of products and animals that they produce, breed and fish.

Minister Geoffrey Wever invites and urges all businesses to participate in the Economic Census 2023. Participation from every business is essential for the success of the census. Revising and creating management for the development of our economy depends on the current information of our local businesses and the Economic Census 2023 is an essential tool in achiev-



ing this important goal, according to Minister Wever.

If any business or organization is interested in an

informative session about the Economic Census 2023, this is available through ec2023@cbs.aw or the CBS website www.cbs.aw □



(Oranjestad)—Today marks the celebration for International Women's day. For this year's theme, the United Nations is focusing on "an inclusive digital world: Innovation and Technology for gender equality," which focuses on women's accessibility to technology around the world.

The UN's goal for this year is to pay homage to the activists and organizations that fight for technology and education transformed by women and who explore the effects of the digital gap between the genders in the rise of social and economic inequality. Emphasis will be placed on the protection

of women's rights in the digital space and online gender violence will be tackled.

Nowadays, human life depends strongly on digital integration, like online courses, virtual meeting, connecting with loved ones, making online appointments. However, 37% of women do not have access to technology.

Globally, 63% of women around the world have access to the internet compared to the 69% of men who have access. This gap is closing each year, but in developing countries, the difference is still significant.

This year's International Women's Day is dedicated to an inclusive digital world

The UN remarks that if these women cannot have access to the internet and if there is no system where they can safely surf the digital world, they may never be able to develop the digital skills necessary for everyday life, which may generate a loss of opportunities in life, and loss of careers related to science and technology.

They will make sure that 75% of jobs around the world relate to the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) areas by 2050. Currently, women occupy only 22% of the positions in these areas and their access to the digital world is even less, especially in developing countries.

"Incorporating women and young girls in technology and digital education will allow for more creative solutions and will have a bigger potential for innovations that will satisfy the need of women to promote equality between genders and spark activism. The lack of inclusion has a big cost," The UN stated.

In connection to this celebration, HIAS Aruba, along with ACNUR will be organiz-

ing workshops during the month of March to empower women in the field of technology, beauty, art and self-care.

On March 7th and 8th, there will be workshops to help women use social media and work with different online tools that can ben-

efit them in the future. On March 14th, there will be a workshop on wood art. On March 15th, there will be a workshop focusing on the use of eco-friendly products for self-care. During this workshop, women will learn how to make their own eco-friendly and organic products. □



Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Aruba Beach Club Resort



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently recognized Distinguished Ambassadors of Aruba. Presenting the Ambassadors with the Distinguished certification as a token of appreciation. The honoring certification program is granted to ambassadors, to recognize, the loyalty, friendships, and visits to Aruba. For consecutively choosing Aruba as their preferred vacation destination each year. The Honoring certification program has three levels, which are divided according to the quantity of consecutive years visiting the island.



Honoring Levels:

- Distinguished Ambassadors: 10> years
- Goodwill Ambassadors: 20> years
- Emerald Ambassadors: 35> years

Honoree were:

Distinguished Ambassadors 10> years:

Tom & Joanne Roland residents of Maryland, United States (have been visiting for 18 years).

Ms. Olga Ruiz representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the Divi Aruba All Inclusive Resort bestowed the certification of the Distinguished Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were presented with the Distinguished certificates, and with memorable gifts.

On behalf of the Government of Aruba,

we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all the Ambassadors for making Aruba their preferred vacation destination for so many years. We are so thankful to have had such wonderful Ambassadors as our visitors after all these years! Aruba is unquestionably their home away from home!

According to Honorees these are the top reasons for returning to Aruba:

Mr. Tom & Mrs. Joanne Roland reasons:

1. The people: honest, friendly, hard working
2. The beaches: white sand, beautiful water
3. Wildlife: beautiful birds, iguanas and shoco
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beauty & THE BEACH

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Carol and friends from Long Island, USA**, who all said they love the weather and people. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

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Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges.

Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass. Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to

pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can

place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! ☐

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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Aruba's air connection

Episode CXCVI 196

Destination values, native heritage, and cultural identity are what we advocate for in our own particular way of safeguarding all reasons to love Aruba. Etnia Nativa, through this cultural blog, "Island-Insight," shares native cultural awareness, educates, and safeguards native heritage. It is how we encourage you to experiment with an island-keeper state of mind during your stay.

It was in 1933 that the former Lieutenant Governor of Aruba, Mr. Wagemaker, presented the first construction plans for building an airport for the island in a place called Dakota in the area known as Wayaca, located on the south coast of the island.

The airfield was renamed Dakota Field, and the terminal facilities became the Dakota Airport. A weekly mail and passenger service between Aruba and Curacao was established in 1934. Airlift services were operated from a mud track, with the Dutch Airline Company, KLM, taking over commercial services at the end of the same year. The airfield was adapted sometime later, and these services were transferred to a graded track known after as the KLM field.

In 1937, an Air Traffic Radio Station was added, which at the same time became the first passenger handling building on the island.

During World War II (1942), the airport was used by the United States Air Force with the aim of defending the navigation of the Caribbean Sea and the Panama Canal against German submarines, thus establishing a US military base on our island. In this same year, the



construction of a new terminal building began on the south side of the runway, transforming the old terminal building into the Fire Department garage. This continued until 1950, when the second airport terminal building was inaugurated and installed shortly after the first fire trucks arrived to serve the airport.

In October 1955, Dakota Airport was renamed Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands, and the opening ceremony was conducted by Prince Bernard himself on the occasion of a royal visit. It was renamed in 1980, after her accession to the throne, as International Airport Reina Beatrix.

or Queen Beatrix. On March 3, 2021, American Airlines celebrated 50 years of flying to and from Aruba.

Currently, Queen Beatrix International Airport is an international airport located in Oranjestad, Aruba. It has flight services to the United States, several Caribbean countries, the northern coastal countries of South America, Canada, as well as many parts of Europe, notably the Netherlands. Thousands of tourists arrive daily from different parts of the world, and it is the first airport to receive Green Globe certification. This certification is a structured assessment of the sustainability performance of travel and tourism companies and their supply chain partners.

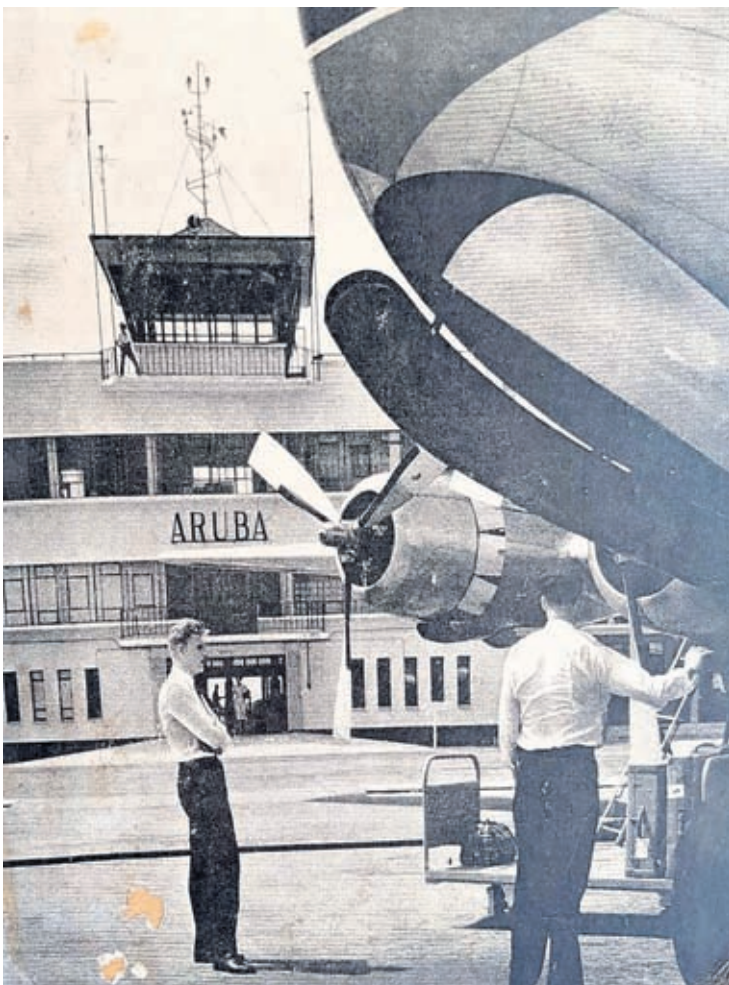
The Aruba NV Airport Authority is the authority that operates and manages

our Queen Beatrix International Airport today. The AAA has a double function since it operates an outstanding Caribbean airport, the financially self-sustaining, safe, and customer-oriented Queen Beatrix International Airport, as well as creating a successful airport business community, contributing to the economic growth and development of the island.

Intrigued by Aruba's origins and its cultural heritage? Then we encourage you to do something outside of the tourist grid. Become one of the exclusive visitors of Etnia Nativa, a private residential encounter set up, where you will be able to touch and be touched by authentic Aruba heritage, a spectacle of native art, archaic as well as archaeological artifacts, lithic tools, colonial furniture, and other items of the island's bygone era. Get inside a recycled environment full of peace, relaxation, knowledge, and information.

Etnia Nativa is, since 1994, the home of Anthony, our acclaimed columnist, artist craftsman, and island Piache, who guides and lectures you through his resplendent collection. E.N. is the only place that recreates and introduces you to an authentic glimpse into Aruba's native cultural heritage. Something completely different for a change—a contemporary Native Aruba experience!

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Linda Wolff, a trajectory dedicated to folkloric music

ORANJESTAD – Linda was born on the 9th of May 1955 in Aruba. At a very young age, she discovered her love and talent for singing. It didn't take long before she affiliated to the Santa Anna Choir and began dedicating to singing at the Santa Anna church in Noord.

IN 1979, Mr. Jossy Brokke Jr. organized a Mexican festival at the Club IOWUA, and here Linda participated singing the song 'Los Laureles' and was among the 10 finalists. She went on to represent Aruba in the grand Mexican Festival of the Antilles, which took place at the Holiday Inn hotel in Curaçao. Linda gave a beautiful performance that night. Back then, Linda was part of the Mariachi Montañeros of Noord.

Since that time, Linda continued dedicating to singing and continued demonstrating her talent and gaining experience as a singer of Ranchera music.

Linda Wolff was the main singer of Mariachi Guadarricana for a long time, where Linda would sing at family parties, birthdays, weddings and other special activities. She continued participating in most Mexican festivals, showcasing her love for this music genre, with her sensual



voice and an attractive and charismatic personality which proved popular among those loving the mariachi music.

In a past interview, Linda said that back when she and her cousins were young teenagers, they started their own home 'aguinaldo' – traditional Christmas music – and to-

gether at the yearend they would sing all the Venezuelan carols: tucusito, o luna, fuego al canon etc. showing the joy and union that they had to enjoy and sing as a family.

Linda did not stop at mariachi music, but also dedicated herself to music and singing participating in different festivals, including



Gospel, Dande, Tumba and a festival dedicated to our Flag and Anthem, 18th of March and folkloric music.

In many occasions, Linda was a finalist in these festivals by showing her beautiful voice in each song.

In 1994 she participated in the grand Festival Tipico y Dande and she was the first finalist in the female category.

In 2010, Linda participated in the Gospel Festival – Soldiers of Christ and finished in 5th place. The following year in the same festival she won second place.

In 2018, Linda received a well-deserved award at the Cas di Cultura, awarded by Fundacion Artistar during a Mexican music festival for children and youth. Linda took guitar lessons and she was accompanying herself for her favorite songs.

After a while, Linda integrated into the group Lirios del Campo by invitation and was directed by Mr. Vicente Tromp, with Linda as singer and guitarist.

Linda also sang in the popular group The New Dimension, before she went on to join the popular group Placentero Ritmo y Cuerde.



centero Ritmo y Cuerde.

Linda was part of Placentero Ritmo y Cuerde for many years.

Back in 1993, when Seaport Market Place would organize weekly activities including a Tropical Night, Placentero would animate this night with rhythm and flavor for tourists and locals to enjoy, and Linda was already part of the group singing and moving to the rhythm to the songs of their own production.

During her trajectory with this group, Linda sang many times at family parties and any celebration throughout the year. She participated in different festivals and had the opportunity of recording different songs for the yearend, many of them composed by Mr. Robert Maduro.

Linda Wolff was a great person and singer with an unmatched charisma, humble and charming character, always cheerful. On 18th of January our people said our final good-byes to Linda in sadness but consoled by her beautiful and unforgettable memories. □



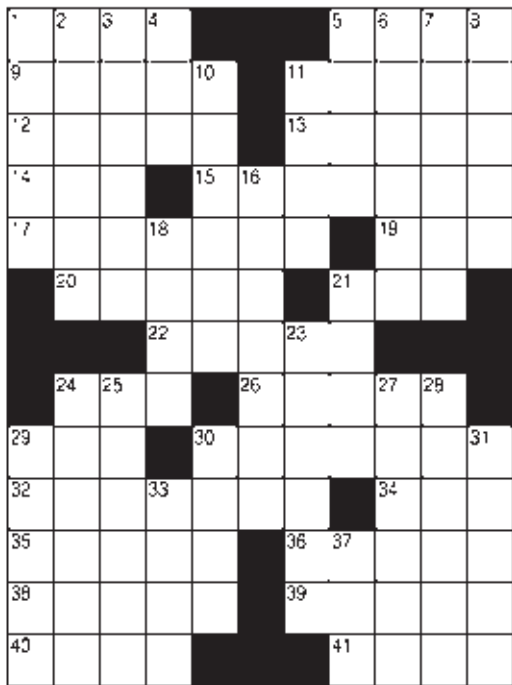
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 35 Ticket category
- 1 Bistro's kin
- 36 Stirring
- 5 Goblet part
- 38 ERA, RBL, etc.
- 9 Bakery come-on
- 39 Crew member
- 11 Was bright
- 40 Go it alone
- 12 Second airing
- 41 Bit of smoke
- 13 Loses freshness
- DOWN**
- 1 Gives a hoot
- 2 Singer
- 3 Armies
- 4 Outback bird
- 5 Prison knife
- 6 Ohio city
- 7 Snare
- 8 Unkempt
- 10 Buck topper
- 11 Influence
- 16 Kind of scan
- 18 Caustic solutions
- 21 Train units
- 23 Fellow player
- 24 Deceived
- 25 Like the Super Bowl
- 27 Zambia neighbor
- 28 Feeds the furnace
- 29 Lawn growth
- 30 Salon styles
- 31 Annoying fellow
- 33 Sax type
- 37 "Holy smokes!"

FATHOM FROG
IGUANA LOWE
RETRACTABLE
PIERS
THOR OKAY
LION GUSHER
ORR KIT EAU
LESSON PART
DEER LIDS
CESAR
INTRACTABLE
RISE ATTAIN
SPAT NEEDED

Yesterday's answer



3-8

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-8 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

B HLLC TPXKMP DLGGMGGMG
OLK LOIU AXG LTO GDXPKK
JRK BIGL KAM GDXPKK LZ
AXG ZPXMOCG. — ZPXMCPXWA
OXMKYGWAM

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE PURPOSE OF A WRITER IS TO KEEP CIVILIZATION FROM DESTROYING ITSELF. — ALBERT CAMUS

Hershey debuts plant-based Reese's Cups, chocolate bars

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

Reese's Peanut Butter Cups are getting the vegan treatment. The Hershey Co. said Tuesday that Reese's Plant Based Peanut Butter Cups, which go on sale this month, will be its first vegan chocolates sold nationally. A second plant-based offering, Hershey's Plant Based Extra Creamy with Almonds and Sea Salt, will follow in April. The chocolates are made with oats instead of milk, Hershey said. Hershey has experimented with vegan chocolate before. It sold an oat-based chocolate bar called Oat Made in some test markets starting in 2021. But the new products will be the first sold throughout the U.S. under the "Plant Based" label.

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Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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Angela Bassett, Oscar nominee, is just doing her thing

By **LESLIE AMBRIZ**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Angela Bassett has a presence that feels warm and inviting but also demands your respect. The actor moves like true Hollywood royalty, knowing her worth, dedicated to her craft and remaining confident yet humble throughout a decades-spanning, award-winning career.

On a Tuesday in January, Bassett would wake up just before 3:45 a.m., unable to fall back asleep. In just two hours, she would hear Riz Ahmed announce her name as a best supporting actress Oscar nominee for her performance as Queen Ramonda in “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.”

Bassett remembers turning to wake up her husband, actor Courtney B. Vance (“I couldn’t experience that alone and then tell him about it later,” she said), and immediately receiving a text from fellow Oscar nominee and award-winning costume designer Ruth E. Carter.

“It was the first nomination and the first name,” she recalled.

“I gasped, and that was a shock, that sort of ‘Whoa! Already? You know, give a girl a minute.’”

Carter and Bassett have worked together at least five times on various projects and are longtime friends.



Angela Bassett poses for a portrait at the 95th Academy Awards Nominees Luncheon on Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

“I was glad to be there for her,” Bassett said of the “brilliant and undeniable” Carter, who won an Oscar in 2019 for the first “Black Panther” movie.

Carter shared the same sentiment about Bassett, saying she’s beyond happy to see her friend celebrated on such a large scale. “Well, I am beyond happy for her. I remember when I received the Oscar. She came right up, and she was so full of joy and happiness for me,” said Carter at the African American Film Critics Association Awards

on March 1. “And I feel the same way for her,” Carter continued. “Having seen her journey for over 25 years and having had started with her on ‘What’s Love Got to Do with It’ and how committed she is to her craft, I think that she is due for her flowers, and I’m so excited to be here with her to witness it and share in the love.”

As Queen Ramonda, Bassett played the mother of Chadwick Boseman’s T’challa. She called working with him the “highlight of her career.” She also made history as her Oscar nomination is Marvel’s first in an acting category. “I’m absolutely thrilled about it. I didn’t know that — that was something that I learned just a couple of weeks ago,” Bassett said at February’s Oscar nominees luncheon. “So, you know, firsts are always nice and hopefully it’s the first of many more.”

Bassett has appeared in cult classic and tentpole films alike, including the late John Singleton’s “Boyz n the Hood” and Forest Whitaker’s “Waiting to Exhale.” While attending the Santa Barbara Film Festival earlier this year, Bassett said that her time as Katherine Jackson in the 1992 series “The Jacksons: An American Dream” prepared her to portray Tina Turner. Her turn as the singer in “What’s Love Got to Do With It” netted the actor her first Oscar nomination, for best actress.

Nearly 30 years later, Bassett has been engulfed in a whirlwind of award shows and press junkets in preparation for the Oscars. Bassett says she’s “holding on” amid the quick pace of awards season and has a sound machine that lulls her “off to peaceful dreams” as she crosses the town from one red carpet to the next.

Earlier this year, she won the Golden Globe for best supporting actress. She’s also become a viral meme thanks to Ariana DeBose proclaiming that “Angela Bassett did the thing!” in a BAFTA performance. Bassett also recently took home the NAACP Image Award for Entertainer of the Year.

While Bassett is excited about her Oscar nomination, she acknowledges the Academy’s failure to include more artists of color and women in their list of nominees. She advises that Academy members should expand their frame of reference when considering films and performances. □

‘Boy Meets World’ star Ben Savage enters U.S. House race in L.A.



Actor Ben Savage arrives at night one of the Creative Arts Emmy Awards in Los Angeles on Sept. 10, 2016.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Ben Savage, who starred as a child in the ABC teen sitcom “Boy Meets World,” is running for a U.S. House seat in California, marking his latest attempt to make the jump from Hollywood to politics.

Savage, a Democrat, said in an Instagram post Monday that “it’s time to restore faith in government” and that voters want leaders “unhindered by political divisions and special interests.”

“I firmly believe in standing up for what is right, ensuring equality and expand-

ing opportunities for all,” he wrote.

Savage joins a crowded field for the seat held by Democratic U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff, who is running for U.S. Senate. Other candidates include former Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer and Democratic state Assemblywoman Laura Friedman.

The heavily Democratic 30th District includes a swath of Los Angeles, including Hollywood and the trendy neighborhoods of Silver Lake and Echo Park, and also cuts through neighboring cities including

Pasadena, Glendale and West Hollywood.

Savage starred in “Boy Meets World” for seven seasons in the ‘90s, in which viewers saw his character Cory Matthews go from awkward sixth grader to a college student married to his high-school sweetheart. He ran for a seat on the West Hollywood City Council last year but only garnered about 6% of the vote.

He said on his website that his priorities include working for safer streets, and addressing homelessness and affordable housing. □

MLS pushing for temporary substitutes for head injuries

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Soccer will keep on pushing the sport's international rules-makers to allow a trial of temporary substitutes for players suspected of concussions. The International Football Association Board, which decides rules, said Saturday that it will continue with trials of permanent substitutions for players suspected of head injuries. MLS and England's Premier League proposed having injured players be assessed for a longer period and have the potential to rejoin the match.

"We strongly believe in the benefits of conducting the trial and welcome the opportunity to share the data and learnings from such a trial with the global soccer community," MLS said in a statement Tuesday.

"The proposed temporary



Minnesota United midfielder Kervin Arriaga (33) sits up after having his head bandaged from an injury trying to head a corner kick during the first half of an MLS soccer game against the Houston Dynamo, Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022 at Allianz Field in St. Paul, Minn.

Associated Press

concussion substitution protocol was developed with MLS's medical advisers and

would allow club medical professionals to conduct a structured off-field evaluation of players suspected of sustaining a concussion." The MLS Players Association has criticized the IFAB, which includes four representatives from FIFA and one each from the governing bodies of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. MLS said it will work with the Premier League, the French league, the MLS union, the international union FIFPRO and the World Leagues Forum to push the IFAB to trial temporary substitutes. "In the meantime, we will continue to evaluate our options as we work with our players and clubs on implementing our current MLS head injury/concussion evaluation and management protocol," the league said. □

Would new PGA Tour model have stopped defections?

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.

(AP) — The PGA Tour is going to reward the biggest stars with as many as 11 tournaments that have small fields, big money and no cuts.

This should sound familiar. And there is no denying it would not have happened without the threat and the disruption of Saudi-funded LIV Golf.

But it raises a question that might shed light on the differences between the rival circuits. If this had been in place two years ago, how many of the 36 PGA Tour players who defected to LIV Golf would have stayed?

"Zero to five," Jordan Spieth said in offering his best best, which is all anyone can do. "It's still not guaranteed money, or that level of guaranteed money." That remains one of the differences in the two models. The PGA Tour has put the prize fund at \$20 million for its big events, just like LIV Golf, except with larger fields and more fresh faces. LIV is locked in with the same 48 players and the occasional alternate. But

without a cut, the money effectively is guaranteed on both circuits.

Not to be overlooked, however, is that LIV players like Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka, Cameron Smith and Bryson DeChambeau — all of whom have won majors in the last five years — received a signing bonus of what has been reported to be in the \$150 million neighborhood. That was more appealing than a chance to play for the Iron Heads or the Hy Flyers.

Spieth still can recall being at a Rolex dinner during the U.S. Open last year when Koepka was part of a group that was circling the wagons for the PGA Tour. And then a week later, Koepka signed for the Saudi money and was gone.

"The easy way out," is how Rory McIlroy described players leaving for LIV when their prime years were still ahead of them.

The new PGA Tour model effectively creates two tours, but players — no matter their world ranking or what they have done lately — still have to perform.

The top players are guar-

anteed spots on LIV for multiple years regardless of how they play. That aspect — more than the lack of a 36-hole cut or 54-hole events — is what led to suggestions the Saudi-funded league would be merely an exhibition.

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan and his predecessor, Tim Finchem, share more than Irish heritage. Both have taken ideas from Greg Norman, the latter having created the World Golf Championships that were similar — but not identical — to the Shark's failed plan of a World Golf Tour in the mid-1990s.

The PGA Tour stole a page from LIV's playbook by not having a cut, effectively assuring sponsors and television that all the best players will play four rounds in the eight designated events, along with the three FedEx Cup playoff events.

It effectively creates a two-tier system. Then again, it's been that way for the 25 years the WGCs have been around. Now those will be gone after this year.

The biggest criticism for the PGA Tour is doing away with a cut, regardless of its history of having no-cut



LIV Golf CEO Greg Norman is seen on the first tee during the final round of the LIV Golf Mayakoba at El Camaleón Golf Course, Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023, in Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

Associated Press

events. Five years ago, the PGA Tour schedule had nine no-cut events, though not everyone felt compelled to play them (three were in Asia in the fall). Tiger Woods, who has 26 no-cut victories among his 82 wins on the PGA Tour, was said to be among those who felt strongly about a cut, perhaps because he rarely worried about weekends off. Woods failed to make the cut seven times in his first 13 years on tour. What the tour got right, however, was providing

enough of an avenue for those who aren't at the elite level or are trying to earn their way back. Ten spots will be awarded to leading players from the current FedEx Cup standings, some of that from points accrued in the fall. Five other spots would come from points earned at tournaments that year.

"As long as you've got a tee time, good golf takes care of everything," J.T. Poston said in January as the system was being developed. □

Lamar Jackson gets nonexclusive franchise tag from Ravens

By **NOAH TRISTER**
AP Sports Writer

The Baltimore Ravens announced Tuesday that they were designating Lamar Jackson as their franchise player, preventing him from becoming an unrestricted free agent this month after the expiration of his rookie contract.

The deadline to apply the franchise tag was 4 p.m. Eastern. The Ravens were always expected to use the tag if they didn't reach a long-term deal with Jackson first. The team and its star quarterback can continue negotiating now, although the nonexclusive tag means he can negotiate with other teams, too.

"There have been many instances across the league and in Baltimore when a player has been designated with the franchise tag and signed a long-term deal that same year," general manager Eric DeCosta said in a statement. "We will continue to negotiate in good faith with Lamar, and we are hopeful that we can strike a long-term deal that is fair to both Lamar and the Ravens. Our ultimate goal is to build a championship team with Lamar Jackson leading the way for many years to



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson speaks to the media at a press conference after an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Oct. 9, 2022, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

come."

The Ravens would have a chance to match any agreement between Jackson and another team, and if they chose not to match, they'd receive two first-round draft picks in return. If Jackson plays this season on the franchise tag, he'd make \$32.4 million.

Baltimore could have prevented Jackson from negotiating with anyone else by using the exclusive-rights franchise tag, but that

could have cost significantly more. The Dallas Cowboys used the exclusive franchise tag on quarterback Dak Prescott in 2020. A year later, they reached a long-term deal with him. Kirk Cousins is another quarterback who played on the franchise tag fairly recently. He did it his final two seasons in Washington before joining the Minnesota Vikings in 2018.

So now the saga between Jackson and the Ravens

enters its next phase. Josh Allen, the other star quarterback drafted in 2018 with Jackson, signed a long-term deal with Buffalo two offseasons ago. Jackson, on the other hand, entered last season still without an extension. His contract status didn't seem too disruptive last offseason — he participated in mandatory minicamp and training camp — but there's no telling how the next few months will go.

There obviously is some risk involved with using the non-exclusive tag, especially for a player of Jackson's caliber, but it could resolve this deadlock sooner. If Jackson is able to find a deal he likes from another team, the Ravens could either match it or take the draft picks and allow him to leave. Jackson, who doesn't have an agent, is one player who should pique the rest of the league's interest, even at the cost of two first-round picks, and his availability to any degree could shake up NFL free agency, which opens later this month.

Jackson was the 2019 NFL MVP, and his dynamic passing and running make him one of the game's most unusual stars. At age 25, he already is one of six quarterbacks in NFL history with 10,000 yards passing and 4,000 rushing. His 12 games with at least 100 yards rushing are an NFL record.

Jackson has been hurt at the end of the past two seasons, and the Ravens haven't reached the AFC championship game with him, but his impact on their offense is massive. If he remains with Baltimore, he'll have a new coordinator after the Ravens hired Georgia's Todd Monkin. □



Chicago White Sox pitcher Mike Clevinger stretches during an MLB spring training baseball practice, Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP) — Chicago White Sox pitcher Mike Clevinger said he feels vindicated and is focusing on the season, speaking two days after Major League Baseball announced he will not be

disciplined following the investigation of a domestic violence allegation.

"I appreciate everyone who waited until the verdict was out, waited until the facts came out. I appreciate anyone who

Clevinger feels vindicated, expects to pitch in next week

didn't rush to judgment and kept their cool and understood the ramifications of these accusations," Clevinger said Tuesday before the Chicago White Sox played the Milwaukee Brewers in a spring training exhibition.

"I was confident the whole time. I feel vindicated," he added. "I guess you could say this was a bad situation, a devastating situation. I'm just trying to move forward. I want to focus on baseball now. Looking forward to helping my family heal from this."

The commissioner's office said its investigation included interviews of more

than 15 people, including Clevinger and a woman who said she is the mother of Clevinger's child, as well as thousands of electronic communications and other documents. Clevinger voluntarily agreed to submit to evaluations by the joint treatment boards established by MLB and the players' association.

"I was an open book to them. I was like, anything you want me to do," he said. "I'll do any evaluation boards you want. I'll do it all."

A 32-year-old right-hander, Clevinger pitched for Cleveland from 2016 until being traded to San Di-

ego during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season. Clevinger signed a \$12 million, one-year contract with the White Sox during the offseason. He expects to pitch sometime in the next week.

Asked what he learned, Clevinger said: "You've got to really watch who you trust. And I'll leave it at that."

Clevinger said his teammates have been supportive.

"I've felt bad this whole time they've had to answer any questions," he said. "I'm ready for them to not have to answer to this." □